

The Tree Commission Meeting for the City of New Castle took place on July 2, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of New Castle's Town Hall.

Members Present: John Lloyd, Chairperson
 Erv Thatcher
 Tom Truman
 Nancy Coning
 Susan Keyser

Members Absent: Mark Miller
 Chip Patterson
 Fran Peden

Mr. Lloyd convened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Approval of Minutes – Several corrections were made to the June minutes. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June meeting as amended. The motion was approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

May 2012 Removal Requests

46 E. 4th Street – Ms. Keyser does not agree that the locust tree needs to be removed. Mr. Truman believes the tree needs pruning.

170 East 3rd Street – Ms. Keyser has seen new growth on this maple tree. The tree will be monitored.

28 Juniper-on-Kings Way – The scrub mulberry tree may need to be removed but there is no need for action at this time.

West 8th Street between Clark and Center Streets – There was no objection to removing a tulip tree damaged by lightning.

220 East 2nd Street – A request was received by a resident to remove this tree based on the roots pushing the sidewalk upward. The tree is healthy.

801 West 13th Street – Commissioners agree the two (2) maple trees need to be removed, but they are not dangerous trees and are considered low priority.

June 2012 Removal Requests

Battery Park – Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Thatcher reported on six (6) trees of various species that are either dead or close to being dead. Mr. Thatcher is waiting for a decision from the Trustees on removal of the trees. He is concerned about public safety with several of the trees. Fellow commissioners agreed with removal of all six (6) trees.

615 West 13th Street – The homeowner has requested removal of two (2) Linden trees that are affecting his sidewalk. Ms. Keyser suggested minor pruning around line clearances but the lower lines are not a problem. She did not see any damage to the sidewalk.

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2012

Plum – 54 East 4th street (on Harmony Street side) – Mr. Carlson recommended the tree be injected with insecticide soon to address scale on the tree. Barlett will be consulted on their recommendation and timeline for treatment. It is Ms. Coning's desire to have the tree removed. Commissioners agreed that the tree will be removed if that is Bartlett's determination or if treatment costs exceed \$200.

16 East 3rd Street, on 4th Street – Mr. Carlson recommends removal of the Norway maple tree. Commissioners agreed and suggested a replacement tree if the budget allows or the homeowner bears the cost.

36 East 6th Street -- A limb on a large Norway maple tree on the house side is dead and removal will create a structural issue with the tree. Mr. Lloyd believes pruning for utility wires over the years has resulted in the problem with this tree. The Tree Commission did not plant this tree. *(Discussion followed.)*

Sailing Club – Two (2) locust trees at the entrance to the walkway are pushing fungus out of the trunks and Mr. Carlson recommends removal. Commissioners concurred with the recommendation. Ms. Keyser noted an over hanging limb on a mulberry tree near the handicap spots and the club house that should be addressed. The tree has been pruned in the past creating weak sprouting growth. Several limbs and sprouts will be removed from the mulberry tree.

A motion was made by Ms. Keyser to remove the trees previously discussed. Mr. Truman seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Pruning Requests

Mr. Lloyd provided Commissioners with an internet article pertaining to trees and litigation (HGExperts.com). Ms. Keyser thinks pruning methods need to be discussed. She referenced a professor from Florida who developed a one-two year process for pruning. *(She has raised this process before this body in the past.)*

FY 2013 Budget

No formal information about the Tree Commission's budget has been received to date. City Council's priority is hazardous trees. Mr. Lloyd will be exploring a grant proposal for \$5,000 from State Forestry that would go against maintenance (pruning) costs. *(Lengthy discussion followed about the City's commitment when funds and resources are approved.)* Estimated costs for pruning that the Tree Commission has already approved was briefly discussed. Mr. Lloyd priced the current pruning list and the cost is \$5,500; removals are \$2,000. Requisitions will be submitted to Council for approval. No work will be performed without their approval.

Member Reports

Mr. Thatcher – A tree came down over the weekend near the building at the Sailing Club.

Ms. Keyser – Nothing to report.

Ms. Coning – Nothing to report.

Mr. Truman – There is a branch from an elm tree sitting on the house at 47 2nd Street. The resident will be contacted prior to any action. A crab apple at 38 West 5th Street should be removed (and will be added to the removal list). The structure of the tree is poor and it is a hazard to pedestrians and vehicles parking in the area.

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2012

Mr. Truman made a motion to remove the small crab apple tree at 38 West 5th Street (corner of Tremont and 5th Streets). Ms. Coning seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-1 abstaining (Keyser).

Mr. Lloyd reported on a pin oak at 409 Harmony Street that has large dead limbs in need of trimming and dead wood and suckers also need to be removed. The limbs are considered dangerous.

Adjournment

There being no more business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie

Debbie Turner
Stenographer